



NLBI/GOFs

***Strengths, weakness, options for
their improvement***

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Introduction

- The international process on forests is not only **one of the most important multilateral process** but also one of the most politically sensitive.
- Economy, society, development, survival, sovereignty, are only some of the associated words that could define why forests are so relevant for all countries in the world.

Introduction

- The **different and various functions of forests** go from timber production to be the habitat for a wide range of species of flora and fauna.
- **The role of forest on protecting and conserving soil and water** could be a sufficient reason to halt deforestation in any area of the world.

Introduction

- The ***United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*** (Rio de Janeiro 1994) struggled unsuccessfully to agree on concrete steps on forests, but only reached the still valid “Forests Principles” *.
- **IPF**, and **IFF** continued the debate that began in Rio, and produced what later were recognized as the **“IPF/IFF Proposals for Action”**.
- All those actions paved the way for adopting the **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)** in 2001.

* Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests

Introduction

- **Progress achieved on forests at the international level has much to deal with the debate on the international legal status this process should have:**

Legally Binding vs Non-Legally Binding

Introduction

Two milestones on the forests process were:

- Adoption by UNFF in 2006 of the **4 Global Objectives on Forests (GOF)**.
- Adoption by UNGAS in 2007 of the **“Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests” (NLBI)**.

NLBI

- The purpose of this instrument is:
- *(a) To strengthen political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared global objectives on forests;*
- *(b) To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals*, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;
- *(c) To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.*

NLBI

- **Although it is a non-legally binding instrument, it defines:**
 - *Principles,*
 - *The need for national policies and measures,*
 - *International policies and means for implementation,*
 - *Monitoring, assessment and reporting*
 - **SFM:** “Sustainable forest management as a **dynamic and evolving concept** aims to **maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests**, for the benefit of present and future generations.”

NLBI

- ***Although it is a non-legally binding instrument, it defines:***
 - **And reaffirm the shared 4 Global Objectives on Forests**, with the commitment of Parties to the NLBI to work globally, regionally and nationally on them,
 - The compromise of Parties to **achieve progress, based on GOF, by 2015.**

GOF

- The aim for adopting the 4 Global Objective on Forests was **“to provide clear guidance on the future work of the international arrangement on forests”**, on:

GOF

1. **Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management (SFM)**, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
2. **Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits**, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
3. **Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests**, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests; and
4. **Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly-increased new and additional financial resources** from all sources for the implementation of SFM.

Relevance of GOF-4

“Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly-increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM”

GOF 4 is key to SFM implementation, because if you 1) have the political will, 2) the definition of what should be done clearly stated on the NFP, and 3) the effective involvement of all social stakeholders...

without financial resources nothing can be done. This is still more true for several developing countries, who are lacking the minimum resources for starting.



STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESS

Strengths and weakness

Instrument's provisions and measures has been taken by several countries to design and implement national forest policies.

In the last years some countries reported an increase in forest cover, that could be considered as a reverse in the loss of forest cover, based on global objective 1.

This trend, however, does not reflect a global picture. Not all countries made a report and not all of the reporting countries increased their forest cover, but instead reduced it.

Strengths and weakness

- **Strengths:**
 - **More visibility for forests at the international level**
 - **Growing commitment from UN Member Countries on forests issues.**
 - ***Linkage of forests with the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the design of the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).***

Strengths and weakness

- **Strengths:**
 - **Modest reduction in deforestation rate.**
 - **The area of protected forests is steadily increasing, but the area of primary forests is still declining.**
 - **Increase in the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management, both in developed and developing countries.**

Strengths and weakness

- **Weakness:**

- ❖ If the aim for adopting the 4 Global Objectives on Forests was “**to provide clear guidance on the future work of the international arrangement on forests**”, we can say that

we know what we need to do, but didn't succeed yet in doing what is expected.

Strengths and weakness

- **Weakness:**

- ❖ **Current financial mechanisms are in a great extent bilateral, and are not effectively allowing developing countries to fully implement SFM. Transparency, eligibility, conditionalities are not facilitating access to funding for SFM to low income countries, including SIDS.**

Strengths and weakness

- **Weakness:**

- ❖ **Not possible to enforce measures and actions of the NLBI and of GOF towards the achievement of SFM, because the NLBI is Not-Legally Binding.**
- ❖ **There is not any financial mechanism linked to a Legally Binding Instrument, to ensure supporting developing countries, for starting implementation of SFM on their territories.**

Strengths and weakness

- **Weakness:**

- ❖ **ODA has been reduced and, at best, re-directed to many other issues, different than forests.**
- ❖ Data presented in the 2012 study on forest financing by the Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests showed a significant increase in official development assistance disbursements linked to global objective 4... but directed mainly to medium income countries. **Developing countries with weaker economies are still in need of financial resources for SFM.**

Strengths and weakness

- **Weakness:**

- ❖ Regarding GOF-4, as Markku Simula presented In Vienna last year: “Climate-based financing for forests still unclear but likely to become a major source for protection, conservation and restoration with various sources and mechanisms”

But carbon financing, including REDD+, could be complementary to a direct financial mechanism for SFM, but not the only source. NOT THE SOLUTION AT ALL.

Strengths and weakness

- **Weakness:**

- ❖ **GOF4 is not yet achieved, as this Goal indicates "provision of new and additional resources" which is much beyond the ODA. Those "new and additional resources" **are still missing.****

Strengths and weakness

- **Weakness:**

- UNFF does not currently have a concrete monitoring mechanism to monitor implementation of the instrument.

Therefore, **future IAF should design such concrete monitoring mechanism, operating within UNFF.**

Options for the improvement in the future

- **To strengthen the existing NLBI... but how? Last years of implementation of NLBI didn't yield a lot of progress.**
- **To develop, negotiate and adopt a Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, under the UN.**
- **Because GOFs are not yet achieved, and are still relevant, any mechanism post-2015 that would be decided by UNFF11 should include the extension of GOFs to 2025, with the adoption of concrete measures and targets, to expedite their achievement. Particularly important for GOFs 1 and 4.**

Options for the improvement in the future

- **To strengthen the existing financial sources for forest, at the same time they are reshaped to allow full access by developing countries.**

Options for the improvement in the future

- **To develop and adopt a Global Forest Fund, also under the UN, to support developing countries on their efforts to implement SFM.**

G77 contributed in UNFF-8 (2009) with some inputs to start discussing a Global Forest Fund. Those inputs, still valid, were:

Proposal by G77 to develop and adopt a Global Forest Fund to support developing countries on their efforts to implement SFM

- **Objective:** The Fund shall aim at **providing new and additional financial resources to developing countries**, in order to achieve the Four Global Objectives on forests, promote sustainable forest management and implement the NLBI in all types of forests. The fund shall be **equally accessible to developing countries without conditionalities** and enable **direct access to funding by all developing countries with all types of forests.** Special needs and circumstances of HFLDs, SIDS, LFCCs and HFCCs countries, as well as Africa, shall be taken into account, including for access to funding.

Proposal by G77 to develop and adopt a Global Forest Fund to support developing countries on their efforts to implement SFM

- **Resources:** Contributions to the Fund, including new and additional funds **from all sources**, including voluntary for promoting sustainable forest management.
- **Structure:** In order to operationalize the Fund immediately, hosting of the fund should take full account of keeping to a minimum its overhead costs including the possibility of hosting it in an already existing agency that can later be elaborated.
- **Governance:** the Fund **would function under the guidance of the UNFF**, aiming for better access to funds. The Governing Body, composed by at least three countries from each of the UN's regional groups based on equitable, geographical distribution, would be responsible for examining and approving project proposals submitted by developing countries. The members of the Governing Body shall be appointed by the UNFF.

Proposal by G77 to develop and adopt a Global Forest Fund to support developing countries on their efforts to implement SFM

- **Communication strategy:** A communication strategy to engage all stake holders and attract potential donors is essential. This strategy would be implemented by the UNFF Secretariat and the CPF
- **Funding targets:** A funding target could be defined by the UNFF, aimed at institutional strengthening, capacity building and transfer of environmentally sound technology, in order to guide the efforts in mobilizing voluntary contributions for the Fund.
- **Operational procedures:** The UNFF should adopt simple and transparent operational procedures for the functioning of the Governing Body, in order to allow for the quick disbursement of funds from the Fund.

Proposal by G77 to develop and adopt a Global Forest Fund to support developing countries on their efforts to implement SFM

- **Eligible activities and Priorities:** The Fund would provide grants to projects that aim at implementing the national policies and programmes and actions outlined in section V of the NLBI.
- **Reporting procedures:** Simple reporting procedures for projects that receive resources from the Fund should be established, in order to assess the efficiency of the Fund in contributing towards implementation of the four Global Objectives, SFM and the NLBI.



Thanks for your attention